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ADEQ, ADHS Issue Smoke Advisory For Town Of Maricopa

PHOENIX – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Department of Health Services have issued a smoke advisory for residents of the Town of Maricopa as a result of the tire fire at the Arizona Rubber Recycling facility.

The two state agencies are urging residents of the Town of Maricopa and persons on the Ak-Chin Indian Community to be alert for changing weather conditions that may cause smoke from the tire fire to shift into these communities from time to time.

While smoke from the fire, burning near Maricopa, has not yet caused dangerous levels of smoke, the changing weather conditions today and over the weekend may result in periods when smoke from the fire may reach unhealthful levels in nearby communities.

“We issued the smoke advisory as a precautionary step to insure that people with respiratory problems and other breathing difficulties can take steps to protect their health from exposure to the smoke,” said ADEQ Director Steve Owens.

Smoke from burning tires is a mixture of gases and fine particles from burning rubber and other components of tires. Smoke from tire fires is more irritating and potentially more harmful to your health than smoke from wood. It can irritate your respiratory system and eyes and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases.

Persons with pre-existing breathing problems should be prepared to stay indoors and turn off any evaporative coolers if smoke conditions warrant. Some residents may consider finding an alternative place to stay until the fire is under better control.

How to tell if smoke is affecting you:

Smoke can cause coughing, a scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, stinging eyes and a runny nose.

If you have heart or lung disease, smoke might make your symptoms worse. People who have heart disease might experience chest pain, rapid heartbeat, shortness of breath and fatigue.



News Release

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Smoke may worsen symptoms for people who have pre-existing respiratory conditions such as respiratory allergies, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, (COPD) in the following ways: inability to breathe normally, cough with or without mucus, chest discomfort, wheezing and shortness of breath.

When smoke levels are high enough, even healthy people may experience some of these symptoms.

For more information about health and safety during a fire, please visit the Arizona Department of Health Services' Web site at www.azdhs.gov or call the State Public Health Information line at (602) 364-4500 or statewide toll-free at (800) 314-9243.